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May 17, 2000

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Commissioner Jane Henney  
Docket No. 00P-1211/CP1  
FDA Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD, 20852

Dear Commissioner Henney:

My concern over the FDA's current policies regarding genetically engineered foods prompts this letter. I believe that the FDA should require that all GE foods be labeled so that the consumer (I) can make an informed choice in the marketplace. One wonders who the FDA is protecting with its current labeling stance. Secondly, the FDA should adopt the cautionary principal with regard to the safety of GE foods. Relying on industry data and interpretation as the FDA does for safety decisions without further rigorous independent tests does not inspire confidence about those decisions or about the FDA. Third, there are additional questions about the safety of GE experiments with regards to our future food supply. For example, will the slow-growth characteristics of a new GE lawn grass cross over into other plants? If the slow-growth characteristic crosses into grain and the yield of grain drops accordingly, how will that be remedied? Some GE experiments seemed to be undertaken without appropriate oversight or concern for possible consequences. The FDA ought take a cautious approach with regard to GE modifications, instead of acquiescing to an industry that is overwhelmingly motivated by financial reward.

Sincerely,

*John W. Lavelle*

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